

A NEW SPECIES OF *MACARTHURIA* (AIZOACEAE) FROM SOUTH-EASTERN QUEENSLAND

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Summary

A new species of *Macarthuria*, *M. complanata* is described and notes on distinguishing features are given.

In the course of preparing the treatment of the family Aizoaceae for the *Flora of South-eastern Queensland*, it became obvious that an undescribed species of *Macarthuria* Huegel ex Endl. occurred in the region.

Macarthuria complanata E. Ross, species nova affinis *M. ephedroidis* C. White sed caulibus complanatis et alatis, floribus majoribus et fere sessilibus differt. **Typus:** High dunes west of Noosa Heads (west of Banksia Av.), 13 Dec 1980, G. N. Batianoff 1501 & Judith Batianoff (holotypus BRI, isotypis K, CANB).

Herba vel frutex parvus, glaber, basin versus lignosus; caules effusi vel ascendentes, complanati et alati plerumque costa prominente et margine incrassata tuberculata, usque ad ca 45 cm longi. Folia basi caduca, obovata, mucronata, lamina basi sensim in petiolum attenuata, 1.2–2.5 cm × 0.4–0.7 cm, petiolus ad 1 cm longus; folia caulina bractas subulatas ad 2 mm longas diminuta. Flores albidii, singulares vel 2–3 simul ad nodum, a bractea et bracteolis subtenti, pedicelli 0.5–1 mm longi; sepala acuminata, 3.5–4.5 mm longa; petala nulla; stamina 8, filamentis basi connatis, ovarium triloculare imperfecte, ovulum in quoque loculo solitarum, styli 3. Capsula ovoidea, ca 3 mm longa; semina anthracina, plus minusve striata dorsaliter, 2 mm longa.

Glabrous, woody-based herb or subshrub, stems spreading or ascending, flattened and winged usually with raised midrib and thickened, tuberculate margins, up to about 45 cm long. Basal leaves caducous, obovate mucronate, base attenuate, 1.2–2.5 cm × 0.4–0.7 cm, petiole up to 1 cm long; cauline leaves reduced to subulate bracts up to 2 mm long. Flowers white, solitary or 2–3 together at a node, subtended by a bract and bracteoles, pedicels 0.5–1 mm long; sepals acuminate, 3.5–4.5 mm long; petals absent; stamens 8, filaments basally connate; ovary imperfectly trilocular, ovules 1 per loculus, styles 3. Capsules ovoid, ca 3 mm long; seeds shiny black, slightly longitudinally ridged along the side furthest from the hilum, 2 mm long, patterned. **Fig. 1.**

WIDE BAY DISTRICT: Cooloola, near Noosa, near King's Bore Road about 0.4 km E of Teewah Ck, 17 Dec 1971, A. G. Harrold s.n.; Noosa, 14 Dec 1965, A. G. Harrold s.n.; Behind Sunshine Beach, approx. 1.6 km S of Noosa Heads, Oct 1968, B. Lebler & P. Baxter s.n.; Sunshine Beach about 3.2 km S of Noosa Heads, 3 Oct 1968, P. Baxter & B. Lebler 1142.

This species has been collected from coastal areas north of Brisbane mainly from the Noosa and Sunshine Beach areas in sandy heath with one collection from the Cooloola area near King's Bore Road in dry shrubby woodland on sand. It is apparently more common in disturbed or regrowth areas. It flowers between October and January.

This species is similar to *M. ephedroides* C. White but the stems are more flattened and winged, particularly in young plants. The flowers are larger and the sepals very acuminate, the flowers of *M. ephedroides* being ca 2.5 mm long, on pedicels 1–4 mm long and the sepals acute to blunt. The seeds of *M. complanata*, have a pattern like that of crocodile skin whereas the seeds of *M. ephedroides* are tuberculate. *M. complanata* differs from *M. neocambrica* F. Muell. in having flattened stems with axillary, usually solitary flowers whereas *M. neocambrica* has a terminal cymose inflorescence.

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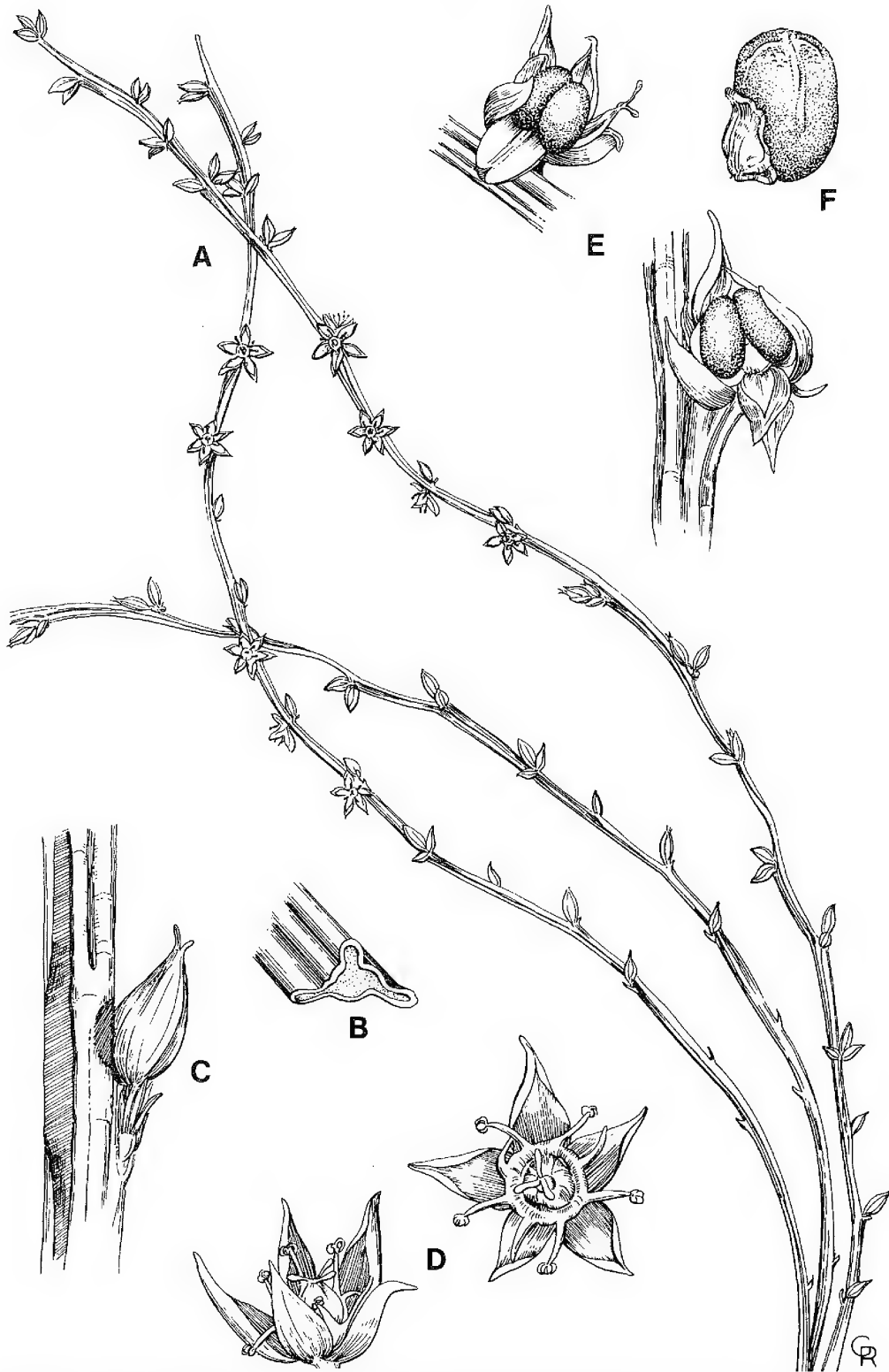


Fig. 1. *Macarthuria complanata*. A. Habit $\times 1$; B. T.S. of stem $\times 6$; C. Flower bud $\times 6$; D. Flowers $\times 6$; E. Fruit $\times 6$; F. seed $\times 12$.